

II

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
LIBRARY
SECURITY

H A V E R H I L L U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

including the Report of the

C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

For the year ended 31st December 1972

HAVERHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council - 1972

Councill H.J. Eves

Chairman of the Public Health Committee - 1972

Councillor Mrs. V. Godden

Medical Officer of Health

Appointment Vacant

David Andrew McCracken, C.St.J., M.D., Ch.B., M.F.C.M., D.P.H., F.R.S.H., County Medical Officer of Health, West Suffolk County Council, attended to the duties of Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the Council until his retirement in June 1972 and from July 1972 his successor, D.G.H. Patey, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., M.F.C.M., D.P.H. carried on with these duties.

Chief Public Health Inspector

R. Banks, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

W.R. Purr, M.A.P.H.I.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Acting Medical Officer of Health for the Urban
District of Haverhill in the Administrative County
of West Suffolk, for the year ended 31st December,
1972

Public Health Department,
Severals House,
Newmarket.

29th August, 1973.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Haverhill Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the Public Health Officers regulations, 1959, I have the honour to present for your information the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1972. The appointment of Medical Officer of Health is at present vacant and filled on a temporary basis by the County Medical Officer of Health. I succeeded Dr. D.A. McCracken in July 1972 and it therefore falls to me to present this report.

The estimated population of the district has increased by 540 people, the natural increase, that is excess of births over deaths, being 200. The birth rate remained considerably higher than that for England and Wales as a whole, reflecting the younger age structure of the population of Haverhill. For the same reason the death rate was low in comparison with the rest of the country, but included seven deaths from lung cancer and twenty five from coronary heart disease. Cigarette smoking is a very significant factor in lung cancer and implicated in coronary heart disease and many of these deaths could have been prevented had the subjects not ignored the clear evidence of the dangers of cigarette smoking which is now available.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was very low and indeed the lowest figure for the last ten years. This satisfactory state of affairs is largely due to a very marked reduction in the incidence of measles for which the introduction of immunisation against this disease, which still has an appreciable incidence of serious complications, must be held responsible.

The environmental work of the Public Health Department is dealt with in the Report of Mr. R. Banks, Chief Public Health Inspector, which follows. I am greatly indebted to Mr. Banks for his help in maintaining the work of the department during this difficult transitional period and in particular for his great help in compiling this report.

D.G.H. Patey,

County Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,562 acres
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.72)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£516,240
Sum represented by a lp. Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£5,650
Rates	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	102.5p
(County Rate 61p U.D.C. Rate 41.5p)								

Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,378
Estimated population as at 30.6.72	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,010
Population - Census 1971	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,430

The industrial activities of the district are varied and include agriculture, the manufacture of ready made clothing, gloves, brushes, ropes, twines, sacks, telecommunications equipment, office furniture, steel furniture, wooden furniture, sports equipment, camping equipment, sheet metal products, essences, oil well equipment, jewellery, automobile accessories, ladders, non-ferrous castings, scientific glassware, wooden cabinets, wooden household products, chemicals, paint, refrigeration appliances, data processing equipment, weighing machines, food machinery, tools and electrical and mechanical components, display models, motor vehicle lamp holders and rubber and plastic goods. There are firms engaged in engineering, the processing of sausage skins, specialist packing, laundering, printing, the processing of animal feeding stuffs, potato processing, paper converting, paint spraying and food warehousing.

There is a Town Development scheme which is being carried out with the co-operation of the Greater London Council.

SECTION B

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR (as supplied by the General Register Office)

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>										<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	142	161	303
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	8	13
Total										147	169	316

Live birth rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24.3
Corrected birth rate (Comp. factor .84)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.4
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.8
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>										<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	5
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Total										4	1	5

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
" " " " " " " " " (Eng. & Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>										<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	146	162	308
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	8	13
Total										151	170	321

<u>DEATHS</u>										<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
										55	61	116
Death rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8.9
Corrected death rate (Comp. factor 1.48)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.2
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.1

<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u> - Deaths of infants under one year of age										<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Total										1	3	4

<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATES</u>												
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
" " " " " " " " (England & Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17

<u>NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>												
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9

<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>												
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>												
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19

<u>ADJUSTED BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS</u>												
										<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
										<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Birth Rates	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21.0	18.6	20.4
Death Rates	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.3	13.8	11.1
										11.6	11.5	13.2

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	2	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	-
Other malignant neoplasms	5	6
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	2
Other diseases of nervous system	1	-
Hypertensive disease	-	2
Ischaemic heart disease	9	16
Other forms of heart disease	2	3
Cerebrovascular disease	10	4
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	1
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	8	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	-	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	-
Other diseases of digestive system	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	1
Congenital anomalies	1	2
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1
All other accidents	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	55	61
	<hr/>	<hr/>
1971	55	37

SECTION C

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Hospitals and Ambulance Facilities

There are no hospitals within the area. The County Council are responsible for the ambulance service and have provided an ad hoc ambulance station at Camps Road where a full-time service is maintained. There are two first-line ambulances with a reserve maintained at the station. They are manned by fully experienced and trained crews.

Nursing in the Home

An average of seven district nurse-midwives were available during the year to deal with community mid-wifery and home nursing. In addition two temporary nurses were employed at various periods. Three domiciliary health visitors were available in the district and for clinic duties as well as the nursing/midwifery staff who are all on the staff of the County Health Department.

Health Clinic

The ad hoc premises have now been fully utilised for some years and are adequately staffed by the County Council with some help from the Hospital Board and the Family Planning Association. Clinics are held at regular intervals, some once or twice weekly, whilst the more specialised at longer, but nevertheless, regular times.

Clinics etc. held are :-

Child Health (Infant Welfare), Ante-natal, Mothercraft, Post-natal, Chiropody, Dental, Speech Therapy, Physiotherapy and Dermatology (Regional Hospital Board) Educational Psychology, Family Planning, Mother Club, Slimming Club and Marriage Guidance.

SECTION D

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The number of notifications received during the last ten years as compared with 1972 is shown in the following table :-

	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	13	1	7	21	1	-	1	-	6	4	-
Measles	3	246	5	34	549	5	121	3	46	7	2
Whooping Cough	4	8	29	1	21	30	5	5	-	2	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-
Salmonella Typhimurium	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Sonne Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
	20	255	41	56	571	36	127	9	64	26	3

SECTION E

TUBERCULOSIS

One new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis Register

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
1. Cases at commencement of 1972	8	8	-	2	18
2. First notified during 1972	1	-	-	-	1
3. Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
4. Added by transfers	-	-	-	-	-
5. Cases removed from Register	-	-	-	-	-
6. Remaining at 31.12.72	9	8	-	2	19

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

The following information has been supplied by :-

F.G. JOHNSON, C.Eng., M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.I.H.E., ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

RAINFALL

Rainfall as registered by the rain gauge during the years 1967 to 1971 at the Sewage Works, as compared with 1972.

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
January	2.52	2.88	2.55	2.39	2.06	1.21
February	1.51	0.53	2.25	1.95	1.02	1.59
March	1.55	1.44	1.84	2.23	1.22	0.80
April	1.68	0.84	2.83	1.39	1.81	2.48
May	1.39	1.72	0.64	2.44	1.19	2.83
June	0.97	3.03	0.65	1.45	2.37	1.54
July	2.94	1.13	1.76	3.17	3.24	1.18
August	0.76	2.84	2.41	2.25	3.33	1.99
September	1.67	0.68	1.78	0.60	4.66	2.28
October	0.13	2.28	0.80	0.24	2.04	3.95
November	1.94	3.10	6.19	2.87	1.09	2.27
December	2.28	0.75	1.85	2.60	1.43	2.33
	<u>19.34</u>	<u>21.22</u>	<u>25.55</u>	<u>23.58</u>	<u>25.46</u>	<u>24.45</u>

OPEN AIR SWIMMING POOL

The Open-air Swimming Pool is situated at Swan Lane near to the centre of the town. The main pool is 75' x 30' with a maximum depth of 7' constructed in 1930, with a Junior Pool 40' x 20' with a depth varying from 1' 6" to 3' 0". A filtration and chlorination plant was installed in 1938 and increased in capacity in 1964. A heating system for both pools was installed in 1970.

The charges are £1.50 for Adult Season Ticket holders and £1.10 for Junior Season Ticket holders. The charge for a single session is £0.12 for Adults and £0.06 for children.

There were 28 Adult Season, 216 Junior Season tickets sold. In addition, 1,712 adults and 14,416 juniors paid for admission.

The pool was reserved for the exclusive use of schools during the summer term in the mornings and four afternoons and one evening each week is reserved for the Swimming Club.

Daily field tests are carried out on the bath water and regular bacteriological tests are carried out which show that a regular high standard was achieved.

SEWERAGE

Stage I of the Elmhurst surface water sewer to connect part of the Duddery and Colne Valley Road areas to the river to the south east of the Elmhurst Estate was completed.

Number of dwelling houses connected to the sewers 4,427

Number of dwelling houses not connected to the sewers 40
(Not within a reasonable distance of a public sewer)

A sewer was constructed to the Inlet Works of the Sewage Works to allow for the development of the residential land to the north east corner of the town.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

Apart from minor details the Contract for the extension of the Works was completed. The Works is now capable of dealing with the River Authority's standard 10 BOD, 10 Suspended Solids, 10 Ammonia.

In order to cater for the further extension of the town and particularly in view of the large quantity of trade effluent, instructions were given for the acquisition of the site at Sturmer and the design for the Sewage Works Extension. The intention is to remove the sludge treatment plant from Coupals Road, to put additional storm water treatment at Coupals Road and to do complete treatments on a balanced flow principle at the two Works.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection of domestic and trade refuse is undertaken by the Department. 4304 domestic premises and approximately 265 trade, commercial and other premises are now collected weekly.

The bonus system of refuse collection which was organised in 1963 is continuing and is working satisfactorily.

Collection is carried out by a 35 cub. yd. Dennis Paxit III and a Karrier Musketeer 17/60 capacity compression type vehicles and a 25 cub. yd. Fore and Aft Tipper. Disposal is by tipping.

The free collection of bulk items of household refuse is continuing, a service which is very necessary in an expanding town.

A Vickers Seerdrum 50 ton capacity Refuse Pulveriser plant has been installed and is working satisfactorily.

The collection of abandoned vehicles in the town is being carried out under the powers given by the Civic Amenities Act.

R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R. Banks, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA DURING 1972

Number of visits and inspections 3,314

The above inspections are divided into :-

Dwelling Houses (Housing Act)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Act)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	134
Verminous Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Infectious Disease Enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Complaints Investigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	340
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Butchers' Shops & Manufacturing Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Cafes, Restaurants & Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wet & Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Other Food Shops & Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	231
Food Stalls & Vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	404
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Poultry Processing Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	120
Rodent Infestation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	116
Insect Infestation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Disinfestation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Clean Air Act, 1956	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	241
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	529
Outworkers Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	304
Noise Abatement Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Water Sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Swimming Baths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Agriculture, (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act 1956	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Explosives Act 1875 and 1923	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Petroleum Installations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	107
Hackney Carriage Vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Pet Animals Act, 1951	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	246
Ice Cream Sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Number of Informal Notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13

SECTION F

WATER SUPPLY

Mains water is supplied to the district by the West Suffolk Water Board.

Bacteriological samples taken throughout the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service were reported as satisfactory. Samples submitted for chemical analysis were reported by an analyst to be suitable for drinking and general purposes.

All occupied and unoccupied dwellings in the district are supplied from public water mains. At the end of the year there were 4,378 occupied dwellings served in this way and the estimated population figure was 13,010. All dwellings have a direct supply into the dwellings with the exception of two cottages which are supplied by an external standpipe.

The Water Board does not fluoridate the water supply but a certain fluoride content occurs naturally. Water is obtained from four sources and the fluoride content varies in different zones of the town according to the bore hole from which the water is obtained. In the main 150,000 gallons per day is obtained from the Burton End bore well with a fluoride content of 0.60 parts per million and 400,000 gallons per day from the Bartlow bore well with a fluoride content of 0.10 parts per million. These supplies are augmented as necessary by water from the Wixoe and Great Wrattling bore holes containing 0.60 and 0.30 parts per million of fluoride respectively.

COUNCIL HOUSING

Council housing is under the management of the Council's Housing Manager, P.A. Hewitt, F.I.H.M.

At the end of the year the Council owned :-

222	4-bedroom houses
2465	3-bedroom houses
254	2-bedroom houses
52	2-bedroom bungalows
42	1-bedroom bungalows
47	bedsitter bungalows
4	3-bedroom flats
36	2-bedroom flats
24	1-bedroom flats
16	bedsitter flats
28	bedsitter flats with warden service
1	Warden's flat
26	other houses purchased by the Council
<u>3217</u>	

PRIVATE HOUSING

The Council's slum clearance programme was completed some years ago. There remain a small number of old houses the condition of which is reviewed from time to time by the public health inspectors and in this connection a small area consisting of six houses was declared a clearance area during the year.

In the course of the year 6 standard and 27 discretionary improvement grants were approved by the Council.

POULTRY INSPECTION

There is one small poultry slaughterhouse within the district which was visited 51 times during the year. A total of 2,372 birds consisting of 1,187 hens and 1,185 chickens were slaughtered during the year. 1.52 per cent of the birds weighing a total of 154 lbs. were rejected as unfit for human consumption.

Slaughtering normally takes place about once a week at these premises and an inspector pays a visit on each occasion. The premises are clean and well conducted and the low rate of rejection of unfit birds is due to the fact that the proprietor rejects emaciated and poor birds at the farms rather than bring them to the slaughterhouse.

FOOD PREMISES

Butchers' shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Butchers' Manufacturing Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Grocers' and General Stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Cafes, School Kitchens & Factory Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Wet and Fried Fish-Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Greengrocery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Sweets, Confectionery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Milk Depots	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Hotels with catering facilities	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Public Houses and Licensed Clubs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Shops with Off Licenses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

For the most part there was the utmost co-operation from members of the food trades in securing compliance with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970.

PEST DESTRUCTION

The Council employs one rodent operator who in addition to dealing with rodent disinfection carries out other ~~disinfestation~~ and disinfection work.

A free rat and mice destruction service is provided in respect of domestic dwellings and the treatment of business premises is charged at cost on an hourly basis. This has been found to encourage early notification of infestation thus ensuring prompt destruction treatment.

Rodent treatment of the Council's refuse tips is carried out weekly and the Council's sewers are treated twice annually. Because the town is surrounded by farm land vigilance has to be exercised to prevent any influx of rats from these quarters especially after harvest time.

Insect disinfection is carried out at domestic premises free of charge but a nominal charge is made for the destruction of wasp nests.

We are fortunate in having a keen and efficient rodent operator. During the year he made 637 visits and 1,167 re-visits to various premises and sites in the course of his duties.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

The Council is responsible for the annual licensing of some 32 petroleum installations and storage places, the necessary inspection and administration work being carried out by the public health inspectors. The Home Office model code of principles of construction and licensing conditions has been adopted.

All newly installed pipelines and underground storage tanks are tested before licensing and existing installations are inspected and tested at periodic intervals.

EXPLOSIVES ACTS

On behalf of the County Council the Council is responsible for the annual registration of some 16 premises for the keeping of explosives such as fireworks, safety cartridges and bird scaring ropes. The necessary inspection work is carried out by the Public Health Inspectors and advice is always given to shopkeepers immediately prior to the fire-work season.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Two licences to keep a pet shop are in issue. These premises have been well conducted and the above Act properly complied with.

SECTION G

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the

Factories Act, 1961

Part 1. of the Act

- 1 - Inspections for the purpose of the provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	N u m b e r o f		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	94	456	3	-
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	14	72	-	-
Total	109	529	3	-

Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
(1)	(2)	(3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3			
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1			
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	8	8	6		
Total	18	18	6		

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork - Sections 133 and 134

Section 133			Section 134			
Nature of Work (1)	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (C) (2)	No. of cases of default of sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices serv'd (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing } making etc. Apparel } cleaning & } washing	5	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	-	-	-	-	-

THE OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

TABLE "A"

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL
INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year 1972	Total number of registered premises at end of 1972	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year 1972
Offices	6	38	14
Retail Shops	6	85	34
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	3	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	11	6
Fuel storage depots ..	-	-	-
Totals	14	137	56

TABLE "B"

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS (INCLUDING GENERAL INSPECTIONS) TO REGISTERED PREMISES	304
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TABLE "C"

ANALYSIS OF WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR

CLASS OF WORKPLACE	Number of persons employed
Offices	182
Retail Shops	468
Wholesale departments, warehouses	24
Catering establishments open to the public	49
Canteens	-
Fuel storage depots ..	-
Total	723
Total Males	318
Total Females	405

TABLE "D"

EXEMPTIONS

Part I	Space (Section 5(2))	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Part II	Temperature (Section 6)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Part III	Sanitary Conveniences (Section 9)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Part IV	Washing Facilities (Section 10 (1))	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

TABLE "E"

PROSECUTIONS

Prosecutions	Nil
--------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

TABLE "F"

STAFF

Number of inspectors appointed under Section 52 (1) or (5) of the Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

